

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 18, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W015 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Carlene M. Walker, Senate Chair
Rep. Todd E. Kiser, House Chair
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Ed Mayne
Sen. Kevin T. VanTassell
Rep. Stephen D. Clark
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Fred R. Hunsaker

Rep. Brad King
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Paul A. Neuenschwander
Rep. LaWanna Lou Shurtliff
Rep. Mark W. Walker

Members Excused:

Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark B. Steinagel, Policy Analyst
Mr. Shannon C. Halverson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Rep. Kiser called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m.

Ms. Kim Gibb, Driver License Division, Department of Public Safety, gave an update on the computer programs being instituted in California that test driver ability and explained that the program is not compatible with equipment we currently have. She also distributed and reviewed "Renewal By Mail or Internet for Drivers Over Age 65."

MOTION: Rep. Neuenschwander moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Walker, Sen. VanTassell, Rep. Ferry, and Rep. Menlove were absent for the vote.

2. Motor Carriers and Traffic Safety

Rep. Jack Draxler and Rep. Sheryl Allen introduced the topic of large truck safety and the reasons truck traffic safety is a concern for legislators.

Mr. Steinagel reported on the value of the trucking industry within the state. He also distributed and presented "Large Truck Traffic Safety."

Mr. Richard Clasby, Director, Motor Carrier Division, UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation), distributed and reviewed "Commercial Vehicle Safety" and "Unsafe Driving Acts of Motorists in the Vicinity of Large Trucks."

Mr. Carlos Braceras, Deputy Director, UDOT, mentioned the Utah Comprehensive Safety Plan, which is a multi-agency partnership being organized to address traffic safety. Mr. Braceras commented on specific safety issues including the securement of loads and litter on roadways. He also said the biggest difference in safety could be made by enacting a primary seat belt law.

Mr. David Creer, Executive Director, Utah Trucking Association, commented on the safety record of truckers in the state and supported the idea of a primary seat belt law. Mr. Creer also distributed "ATA Safety and Regulatory Update" for reference.

3. Motor Fuel Tax

Rep. Wayne A. Harper opened a discussion about alternative fuel and highway usage taxes by asking if the current system needs to be updated.

Mr. Steinagel distributed and presented "Utah's Fuel Taxes: Concerns and Options." He discussed the problem of fuel tax revenue stability and the need for adequate transportation funding in the state.

Ms. Halverson discussed future fuel tax legislative options and responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Royce Van Tassel, Utah Taxpayers Association, distributed and reviewed "The Utah Taxpayers Association's Transportation Proposal."

Mr. Ahmad Jaber, Director, Systems Planning and Programming, UDOT, distributed and reviewed "Utah's Unified Transportation Plan."

4. Annual Review of New Transportation Capacity Projects

This item was not discussed.

5. Unified Long-Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Jaber distributed and commented on "Utah's Unified Transportation Plan 2007-2030."

6. Corridor Preservation Appropriations Report

This item was not discussed.

7 Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Hemingway moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Jenkins, Sen. Mayne, Rep. Clark, Rep. King, Rep. Menlove, and Rep. Walker were absent for the vote.

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.